



ISTN-100

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of:

Arthur Jing-Min YANG

Serial No. 09/601,888

Group: 1754

Filed: August 9, 2000

For: ION SEPARATION USING A SURFACE-TREATED XEROGE

The Honorable Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

May 16, 2001

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
(37 C.F.R. §§1.56 and 1.97(b)(1))

Sir:

In accordance with Applicants' obligation under 37 C.F.R. 1.56 and 37 C.F.R. 1.97(a), Applicants are submitting herewith Form PTO-1449, listing thereon, documents known to Applicants and considered as potentially relevant to the examination of this application. A copy of each document listed on Form PTO-1449 is enclosed herewith. This Statement is filed within the time limit set forth in 37 CFR 1.97(b)(3). In the event that an Office Action has been mailed prior to the date of this communication, it is stated that each item of information enclosed herewith was first cited in a communication in a counterpart foreign application within three months of the date hereof.

No representation is made that Applicants have conducted a search of the prior art or that more relevant prior art does not exist.

Applicants reserves the right to offer evidence and/or reasons to establish that the claimed invention is patentable over any single cited document or combination of cited documents.

The documents listed on Form PTO-1449 include:

U.S. 3,810,843

U.S. 4,992,207

U.S. 5,708,069

WO 98/37015

EP 0983969

SU 585 187 (Abstract only)

U.S. 3,810,843, is concerned with silicone-silica compositions resulting from contacting soluble silica and at least 1 organofunctional silane coupling agent.

U.S. 4,992,207, is concerned with selective extraction of gold, silver and other metals, using cells or cell extracts of a microorganism capable of binding the metals.

U.S. 5,708,069, is concerned with a method for making hydrophobic silica gels under neutral conditions. In the first step, the pH of a silica hydrosol is adjusted to from pH 3 to 7. In the second step, the silica hydrogel from the first step is contacted with an organosilicon compound in the presence of a catalytic amount of strong acid to effect hydrophobing. A third step is to contact the gel with sufficient quantity of water-immiscible organic solvent to convert the hydrophobic silica hydrogel into a hydrophobic silica organogel.

WO 98/37015, is concerned with hydrophobic organosilicate-modified silica gels, which are prepared by first heat-treating organosilicate-modified silica hydrosol in the presence of strong mineral acid at a pH less than 1 to form organosilicate-modified silica hydrogel and then contacting the hydrogel with an organosilicon compound in the presence of a catalytic amount of strong acid. The resulting gel has a surface area of 100 to 750 m²/g.

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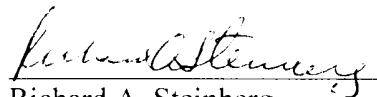
EP 0983969, is concerned with removal of metal contaminants from solution using mercapto-functional silica xerogels. The method for making the mercapto-functional silica xerogels is preferably the method disclosed in the above U.S. 5,708,069.

SU 585 187 (abstract) relates to three-dimensionally cross-linked thiol substituted silicone resins prepared by hydrolysis of mercaptomethyl-trimethoxysilane.

Consideration of these documents as part of the examination of the subject application and return of the initialed and dated Form PTO-1449 is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

by



Richard A. Steinberg
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 26,588

SHERMAN & SHALLOWAY
P.O. Box 788
Alexandria, Virginia 22313
(703) 549-2282

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

Several sheets if necessary)

Atty. Docket No.
ISTN-100Serial No.
09/601,888Applicant
Arthur Jing-Min YANGFiling Date
August 9, 2000Group
1754

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*Examiner Initial	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate
AA	3 8 1 0 8 4 3	5/14/74	Slusarczyk, et al.			
AB	4 9 9 2 2 0 7	2/12/91	Darnall, et al.			
AC	5 7 0 8 0 6 9	1/13/98	Burns, et al.			

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation	
						Yes	No
AD	9 8 3 7 0 1 5	8/27/98	WORLD			X	
AE	0 9 8 3 9 6 9	3/8/00	EUROPE			X	

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Page, Etc.)

AF DATABASE WPI, Section CH, Week 197845, Derwent Publications Ltd.,
SU 585 187A (AS SIBE IRKUT ORGAN), 27 December 1977 - ABSTRACT.

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Form PTO-FB-A820

(also form PTO-1449)

0000049.DOC (1/24/90)

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